

Amendments of the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified patent application:

Listing of Claims

1-36. (canceled)

37. (new) Wetting apparatus, for wetting a hydrophilic urinary catheter prior to use, comprising:

a wetting receptacle which defines a wetting fluid receiving space, said wetting fluid receiving space
5 forming an elongate pocket having a volume therein;

a urinary catheter arranged in said wetting receptacle, said urinary catheter having an insertable length and having a hydrophilic outer surface on at least said insertable length; wherein:

10 said elongate pocket accommodates said at least said insertable length of said catheter; said wetting apparatus further comprising:

a wetting fluid container containing a wetting fluid and having a discharge portion that opens upon
15 application of a predetermined condition to said wetting fluid container to enable said wetting fluid to be discharged from said wetting fluid container; wherein:

said wetting fluid container is integrated with said wetting receptacle;

20 at least said discharge portion of said wetting fluid container is disposed within said wetting receptacle;

said discharge portion of said wetting fluid container is in fluid communication with said wetting fluid
25 receiving space; and

application of said predetermined condition to said wetting fluid container causes said wetting fluid to be discharged through said discharge opening into said wetting fluid receiving space and, thereby, to wet at least
30 said insertable length of said hydrophilic urinary catheter.

38. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said wetting fluid container contains sufficient wetting fluid to fill said elongate pocket to a level for wetting said at least said insertable length of said
35 hydrophilic urinary catheter.

39. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said wetting receptacle is a urine collection bag, and said elongate pocket forms a forward portion thereof.

40. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said urine collection bag further comprises a urine collection chamber located at a rear portion of said elongate pocket, said urine collection chamber having a
5 volume greater than said volume of said elongate pocket.

41. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 40, wherein:

said elongate pocket of said urine collection bag presents an open rear end and a weakened closed forward
5 end which is removable upon application of a predetermined pressure thereto thereby to enable a portion of said hydrophilic urinary catheter comprising at least said insertable length thereof to be projected through a forward end of said elongate pocket after wetting thereof for
10 insertion into the urethra of a patient: and

said urine collection chamber has a forward end which is in fluid communication with said open rear end of said elongate pocket and is adapted in use to collect urine transported rearwardly through said hydrophilic
15 urinary catheter after insertion thereof into the urethra of said patient.

42. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said wetting fluid container is made of aluminum foil, poly(vinylidene chloride) or a metallized film.

43. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 42, wherein said metallized film comprises metallized poly(ethylene terephthalate).

44. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said wetting fluid container is fully contained within said wetting receptacle.

45. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said wetting fluid container is permanently fixed to an inner surface of said wetting receptacle.

46. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said wetting fluid container is an integrally formed compartment of said wetting receptacle.

47. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 37, wherein:

said wetting receptacle is formed of a flexible material; and

5 said discharge portion of said wetting fluid container is able to be opened through application of a predetermined force to said wetting fluid container through said flexible material of said wetting receptacle.

48. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said wetting fluid container is integrated with said wetting receptacle in a releasably secured manner.

49. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 48, wherein:

5 said wetting receptacle is provided with an inlet which is in fluid communication with said wetting fluid receiving area; and

said wetting fluid container is releasably secured in said inlet of said wetting receptacle by insertion of at least a forward portion thereof in said

inlet, said forward portion of said wetting fluid container
10 presenting said discharge portion.

50. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim
49, wherein said wetting fluid container is releasably
secured in said inlet of said wetting receptacle through a
friction fit between said wetting fluid container and said
5 inlet of said wetting receptacle.

51. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim
50, wherein said wetting fluid container comprises means for
applying said predetermined condition to said discharge
portion to open said wetting fluid container.

52. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim
51, wherein said forward portion of said wetting fluid
container is positioned in said inlet of said wetting
receptacle; and
5 said wetting fluid container comprises a
rearward portion which projects from said inlet of said
wetting receptacle.

53. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim
52, wherein said rearward portion comprises at least a part
of said means for applying said predetermined condition.

54. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim
53, wherein said discharge portion comprises an area of
weakness in material of said forward portion of said wetting
fluid container which on application of a predetermined
5 force thereto opens.

55. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim
54, wherein at least a part of said means for applying said
predetermined condition comprises a tab at said rearward
portion of said wetting fluid container which on application
5 of a predetermined pulling force thereto causes said
predetermined force to be applied to an area of weakness in

material of said forward portion of said wetting fluid container.

56. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 55, wherein said area of weakness in said material of said forward portion of said wetting fluid container is a tear line which is adapted to be torn on application of said
5 predetermined pulling force to said tab.

57. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 56, wherein said means for applying said predetermined condition further comprises holding means for holding said wetting fluid container against action of said predetermined
5 pulling force applied to said tab.

58. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 57, wherein:

said wetting receptacle comprises a flexible material; and

5 said holding means is provided on said forward portion to be gripped by a user through said flexible material of said wetting receptacle.

59. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 58, wherein:

said forward portion of said wetting fluid container presents a forward edge;

5 said tear line extends rearwardly from said forward edge;

said tab is a first tab which extends rearwardly from said forward edge of said forward portion on a first side of said tear line and is of such dimensions as
10 to project from said inlet of said wetting receptacle;

said holding means for holding said wetting fluid container against said action of said pulling force applied to said first tab is a second tab which extends forwardly from said forward edge on a second opposite side
15 of said tear line; and

application of a predetermined rearward pulling force on said first tab relative to said second tab causes said tear line to tear and said wetting fluid to discharge from said wetting fluid container into said wetting fluid receiving area of said wetting receptacle.

60. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said wetting fluid container comprises a sachet.

61. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said wetting fluid is water or a saline solution.

62. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 61, wherein said wetting fluid container comprises a material which is impermeable to ethylene oxide and water or saline solution.

63. (new) Wetting apparatus for wetting a hydrophilic urinary catheter prior to use, said urinary catheter having an insertable length and having a hydrophilic outer surface on at least said insertable length, said wetting apparatus comprising:

a catheter package comprising a sealed elongated volume that contains said hydrophilic urinary catheter, said sealed elongated volume having at least one chamber that surrounds at least a portion of said insertable length of said hydrophilic urinary catheter; wherein:

said at least one chamber comprises a first chamber containing a wetting fluid container having wetting fluid therein, said wetting fluid container opening upon application of a predetermined condition to enable said wetting fluid to discharge from said wetting fluid container to wet at least a tip portion of said insertable length of said hydrophilic urinary catheter; and

said first chamber is defined by a restriction in said elongated volume.

64. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 63, wherein said wetting fluid container contains sufficient wetting fluid to fill said elongated volume to a level for wetting said at least said insertable length of said
5 hydrophilic urinary catheter.

65. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 63, wherein said wetting fluid container is made of aluminum foil, poly(vinylidene chloride) or a metallized film.

66. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 65, wherein said metallized film comprises metallized poly(ethylene terephthalate).

67. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 63, wherein said wetting fluid container is fully contained within said first chamber.

68. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 67, wherein said wetting fluid container is permanently fixed to an inner surface of said first chamber.

69. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 67, wherein said wetting fluid container is an integrally formed compartment of said elongated volume.

70. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 63, wherein:

said elongated volume is formed of a flexible material; and

5 said wetting fluid container has a discharge portion that opens on application of a predetermined force to said wetting fluid container through said flexible material of said elongated volume.

71. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 63, wherein said wetting fluid container is integrated with said elongated volume in a releasably secured manner.

72. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 71, wherein:

said elongated volume is provided with an inlet which is in fluid communication therewith; and

5 said wetting fluid container is releasably secured in said inlet of said wetting receptacle by insertion of at least a forward portion thereof in said inlet, said forward portion of said wetting fluid container presenting said discharge portion.

73. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 72, wherein said wetting fluid container is releasably secured in said inlet of said elongated volume through a friction fit between said wetting fluid container and said
5 inlet of said elongated volume.

74. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 73, wherein said wetting fluid container comprises means for applying said predetermined condition to said discharge portion to open said wetting fluid container.

75. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 74, wherein said forward portion of said wetting fluid container is positioned in said inlet of said elongated volume; and

5 said wetting fluid container comprises a rearward portion which projects from said inlet of said wetting receptacle.

76. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 75, wherein said rearward portion comprises at least a part of said means for applying said predetermined condition.

77. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 76, wherein said discharge portion comprises an area of weakness in material of said forward portion of said wetting fluid container which on application of a predetermined
5 force thereto opens.

78. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 77, wherein at least a part of said means for applying said predetermined condition comprises a tab at said rearward portion of said wetting fluid container which on application
5 of a predetermined pulling force thereto causes said predetermined force to be applied to an area of weakness in material of said forward portion of said wetting fluid container.

79. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 78, wherein said area of weakness in said material of said forward portion of said wetting fluid container is a tear line which is adapted to be torn on application of said
5 predetermined pulling force to said tab.

80. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 79, wherein said means for applying said predetermined condition further comprises holding means for holding said wetting fluid container against action of said predetermined
5 pulling force applied to said tab.

81. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 80, wherein:

said wetting receptacle comprises a flexible material; and

5 said holding means is provided on said forward portion to be gripped by a user through said flexible material of said wetting receptacle.

82. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim 81, wherein:

said forward portion of said wetting fluid container presents a forward edge;

5 said tear line extends rearwardly from said forward edge;

said tab is a first tab which extends rearwardly from said forward edge of said forward portion on

a first side of said tear line and is of such dimensions as
10 to project from said inlet of said elongated volume;

said holding means for holding said wetting
fluid container against said action of said pulling force
applied to said first tab is a second tab which extends
forwardly from said forward edge on a second opposite side
15 of said tear line; and

application of a predetermined rearward
pulling force on said first tab relative to said second tab
causes said tear line to tear and said wetting fluid to
discharge from said wetting fluid container into said
20 elongated volume.

83. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim
63, wherein said wetting fluid container comprises a sachet.

84. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim
63, wherein said wetting fluid is water or a saline
solution.

85. (new) The wetting apparatus according to claim
84, wherein said wetting fluid container comprises a
material which is impermeable to ethylene oxide and water or
saline solution.

86. (new) A wetting apparatus comprising:
a wetting receptacle which defines a wetting
fluid receiving area for receiving a hydrophilic urinary
catheter; and

a wetting fluid container that opens upon
application of a predetermined condition thereto to enable
wetting fluid to be discharged from said wetting fluid
container into said wetting fluid receiving area; thereby:
wetting at least a tip portion of said
hydrophilic urinary catheter.

87. (new) A wetting apparatus for wetting a
hydrophilic urinary catheter prior to use, said urinary
catheter having an insertable length and having a

hydrophilic outer surface on at least said insertable length, said wetting apparatus comprising:

a first chamber for receiving at least said insertable length of said hydrophilic urinary catheter therein; and

a second chamber containing a wetting fluid; wherein:

said first chamber is adapted for fluid communication with said second chamber; and

said second chamber is adapted for fluid communication with said first chamber and opens upon application of a predetermined condition thereto to release said wetting fluid.

88. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 87 wherein:

said second chamber has a discharge opening through which said wetting fluid is released upon application of said predetermined condition;

said second chamber is integral with said first chamber; and

at least said discharge opening is disposed within said first chamber.

89. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 88, wherein said second chamber contains sufficient wetting fluid to fill said first chamber to a level for wetting said at least said insertable length of said hydrophilic urinary catheter.

90. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 88, wherein said second chamber is made of aluminum foil, poly(vinylidene chloride) or a metallized film.

91. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 90, wherein said metallized film comprises metallized poly(ethylene terephthalate).

92. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 88, wherein said second chamber is fully contained within said first chamber.

93. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 92, wherein said second chamber is permanently fixed to an inner surface of said first chamber.

94. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 92, wherein said second chamber is an integrally formed compartment of said first chamber.

95. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 88, wherein:

said first chamber is formed of a flexible material; and

5 said second chamber has discharge portion that opens on application of a predetermined force to said second chamber through said flexible material of said first chamber.

96. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 95, wherein said discharge portion comprises an area of weakness in material of said second chamber which on application of a predetermined force thereto opens.

97. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 88, wherein said second chamber is integrated with said first chamber in a releasably secured manner.

98. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 87 wherein:

said first chamber has an inlet adapted to receive at least a portion of said second chamber for passage of said wetting fluid into said first chamber; and

said second chamber has at least a portion adapted for insertion into said inlet of said first chamber,

said discharge opening being in said at least a portion of said second chamber.

99. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 98, wherein said second chamber contains sufficient wetting fluid to fill said first chamber to a level for wetting said at least said insertable length of said hydrophilic urinary catheter.

100. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 98, wherein said second chamber is made of aluminum foil, poly(vinylidene chloride) or a metallized film.

101. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 100, wherein said metallized film comprises metallized poly(ethylene terephthalate).

102. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 98, wherein:

said first chamber is provided with an inlet which is in fluid communication therewith; and

5 said second chamber is releasably secured in said inlet of said first chamber by insertion of at least a forward portion of said second chamber in said inlet, said forward portion of said second chamber presenting a discharge portion.

103. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 102, wherein said second chamber is releasably secured in said inlet of said first chamber through a friction fit between said second chamber and said inlet of said first chamber.

104. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 103, wherein said second chamber comprises means for applying said predetermined condition to said discharge portion to open said second chamber.

105. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 104,
wherein said forward portion of said second chamber is
positioned in said inlet of said first chamber; and
said second chamber comprises a rearward
5 portion which projects from said inlet of said first
chamber.

106. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 105,
wherein said rearward portion comprises at least a part of
said means for applying said predetermined condition.

107. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 106,
wherein said discharge portion comprises an area of weakness
in material of said forward portion of said second chamber
which on application of a predetermined force thereto opens.

108. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 107,
wherein at least a part of said means for applying said
predetermined condition comprises a tab at said rearward
portion of said second chamber which on application of a
5 predetermined pulling force thereto causes said
predetermined force to be applied to an area of weakness in
said material of said forward portion of said second
chamber.

109. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 108,
wherein said area of weakness in said material of said
forward portion of said second chamber is a tear line which
is adapted to be torn on application of said predetermined
5 pulling force to said tab.

110. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 109,
wherein said means for applying said predetermined condition
further comprises holding means for holding said second
chamber against action of said predetermined pulling force
5 applied to said tab.

111. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 110,
wherein:

said first chamber comprises a flexible
material; and

5 said holding means is provided on said
forward portion to be gripped by a user through said
flexible material of said first chamber.

112. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 111,
wherein:

said forward portion of said second chamber
presents a forward edge;

5 said tear line extends rearwardly from said
forward edge;

said tab is a first tab which extends
rearwardly from said forward edge of said forward portion on
a first side of said tear line and is of such dimensions as
10 to project from said inlet of said first chamber;

said holding means for holding said second
chamber against said action of said pulling force applied to
said first tab is a second tab which extends forwardly from
said forward edge on a second opposite side of said tear
15 line; and

application of a predetermined rearward
pulling force on said first tab relative to said second tab
causes said tear line to tear and said wetting fluid to
discharge from said second chamber into said first chamber.

113. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 98,
wherein said second chamber comprises a sachet.

114. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 98,
wherein said wetting fluid is water or a saline solution.

115. (new) The wetting apparatus of claim 114,
wherein said second chamber comprises a material which is
impermeable to ethylene oxide and water or saline solution.